the ONYX informer

April 2002

Serving the people of the African Diaspora... since 1972

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What wou,ld this world be like without the contributions of Black folks?

Anytime you see someone more successful than you are, they are doing something you aren't... ~*Malcolm X*

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Vote Yes to Blacks Voters

Jovia L. Léveillé

Recently, I received an e-mail, posing much concern for the voting rights of Blacks in America. The e-mail raised questions about the Black community's ability to vote, commencing in the year 2007. As some may already know, the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution has given Blacks the right to vote; however, it seems to some as if this amendment may be taken away.

In 1982, former President Ronald Reagan, reportedly, held the power to prolong (or to deny) the right for Blacks to vote, as the right was seen to be a temporary one. By his power, he reportedly decided to give Blacks 25 extra years of their voting right. If you do the math right, these 25 years will be over in the year 2007. As a result, many have stepped up in the fight to further prolong this American right. Camille Cosby, wife of the famous actor, Bill Cosby, has spoken out, urging Blacks in America to take responsibility for their rights by showing that the African-American community deserves the right to keep voting privileges.

On Thursday, the 28th of February, during the activities period, a forum was held in 450 Dodge Hall on the campus of Northeastern University, entitled "How Young Voters are Transforming Political Culture in the U.S." The forum was led by Omar H. Ali, a representative from the Boston chapter of the U.S. Independent Party, organized by Gilberto Osorio, and hosted by NU's Foreign Governments class (under the instruction of Professor Abdullah Al-Faqih). Ali spoke about the lack of voting that is taking place in the Black community

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Everyone is Entitled to an Education

(Education Divide, Part 2)

Jeremiah Shepherd

The future of our elders was one of opportunity. What those opportunities were depended on the seeker but overall, a better tomorrow was desired. My mother had dreams of me living life with a college education. This being so because in her days, higher education was a choice...today, it's a requirement! Today's society takes restricted steps in life due to criteria built around status quo and whom you know. Let's face it, higher education's price tag has a lot of zeros on it and the receipt we receive in the end can be bittersweet.

"How am I supposed to come up with $30,000 a year?" wonders 18-year-old, Dorchester resident, Alex Limage of West Roxbury High School. Over the past 10 years, higher education tuition and fee cost increases have greatly exceeded students' ability to pay (source: The National Higher Education Services Office). High costs and the dismal directions of high school guidance counselors and college officials lead most high school graduates to either expensive out of state colleges, in state schools that don't meet their needs, or straight into the work world limited to those with only a high school diploma.

Most students enter Northeastern without a financial plan for the next five or so years. This is due to the security most people feel when they receive the financial aid package their first year. The total comprehension that one financial package to the next isn't consistent, knowledge of dates/guidelines of important forms (i.e. FAFSA) and the proper steps to take before one finds themselves in financial trouble are issues left for the student to find out on their own. Of 100 students that come to Northeastern, 15 will leave after their first year, 30 between their 2nd and 4th years, and only about 40 will graduate in that 5th year. Statistics as such deter the goal many high school students set for themselves regarding higher education.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS? Sure there are scholarships and grants available to help alleviate the cost of school. However, the competition is intense due to the number of people applying and because of anti-affirmative action ideals, a lot of ethnic-based/cultural scholarships and grants have been eliminated. Those that still exist sometime barely give out enough money for textbooks. Also some scholarships require certain criteria to remain active – this being anything from maintaining a certain GPA or re-application. This being said, most scholarships aren't totally dependable for a person's sole means of payment for school.

QUESTION: AREN'T THERE PROGRAMS FOR COLLEGE HOPEFULS? Kristin Gustafson wrote in an article on high tuition cost, *"Not all students benefit higher tuition...Students who don't qualify for aid and take on jobs or loans to pay increased tuition costs suffer from stress and later debt in life."* This is already the trend. Undergraduate students increasingly work and borrow to pay for college – mathematically; almost 80% of students work and more than 60% borrow to pay for college. One can begin to wonder...where are these programs?

QUESTION: WHY ARE YOU

Education, page 4

Breaking The Cycle: Combating Political Violence In Africa

Torli H. Krua

Boston-An international legal challenge to political violence and torture is rocking the lucrative African dictatorship and rebel business at its core. Leading the efforts to break the vicious cycle of violence that have plagued Africa for decades are the Universal Human Rights International, (UHRI) and the Center for Justice and Accountability, (CJA). At the Historic 2nd African Meeting House on April 6, 2002, Internationally renowned human rights and humanitarian lawyer, Jean Racamora of the CJA with experiences in Rwanda & Bosnia will launch the efforts with US elected Officials.

6.85 million individuals, mainly women and children have been forced out of their homes and made refugees in Africa. Millions have been killed and maimed. In Sudan and the Congo, over 2 million people have been reported killed in civil wars. Two African nations, Liberia and Somalia are among the top ten refugee producing countries with citizens entering the United States according to the US Refugee Policy Manual 2002. More than 500,000 refugees living in the US

were victims of torture in their home countries by their countrymen. Sadly, however, thousands of foreigners now freely living in the United States committed, ordered or participated in or had responsibility for torture and atrocities in their home countries. They enrich themselves but impoverish others.

CJA and UHRI are teaming up to use the existing US and international statues to pursue cases strategically in order to bring dictators, rebels and their agents to justice in courts in the United States.

The US Congress adopted a law in 1994 that gives US courts jurisdiction to prosecute such crimes. The Liberian-Civil War and its atrocities were started and continuous to be supported by individuals residing in or visiting the United States. Doubtless, these lawsuits will send a loud and clear message to dictators and rebels that the days of using violence to achieve political objectives are over. With the threat of lawsuits looming, African human rights abusers residing in Western Nations and in position of power in Africa have lost the incentive to create havoc with impunity.

Don't just sit and observe. Join the worldwide campaign today! For more information contact:

Torli H. Krua, Executive Director
Universal Human Rights International
31 Heath Street
Boston, MA 02130
617-784-0585

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WRITING THIS ARTICLE?

Personally I find it ridiculous the prices one has to pay in order to receive a degree. How is a person suppose to become successful (in accordance to the American standard) when the means by which to do so is out of their reach? Everyone is entitled to an education. Everyone has the right to go to college and become whatever it is he/she may wish. The truth is everyone won't go to college and for some the reason is as simple as not knowing what to do in order to get there. Northeastern University owes it to the community they sit in to at least make clear the steps needed to obtain the services it and institutions as such offer. This campus can be an oasis of knowledge rather than the eyesore seen by high school students who know nothing of life after graduation. My challenge is simple –

EDUCATE! Educate the schools on the financial aid process through their junior and senior years. Educate the parents on what they can expect financially and supportively from the university. Educate the guidance counselors on tactics best used for guiding students in their choices. Educate the community on the importance of not only higher education but also using what is learned to build networks so that others won't have to work, worry and suffer as much. A divide cannot exist when we rely on one another's strengths to eliminate our weaknesses.

Noteworthy

Wednesday, April 17

Nominations for student organization awards are due by 4:30pm. Award categories include Organization of the Year, Organizational Excellence, Program of the Year , Advisor of the Year, Community Service. Awards will be presented at the Student Activities Banquet on May 29th.

Pick up an applications packet from the Student Activities Office, 228 Curry Student Center. For more information lease call Jane Sanders at 617-373-7544.

Thursday, April 18th

LASO presents a Latin Night @ After Hours. Doors open @ 8pm Music by Dj Miguelito starts @ 10pm

Friday, April 19th

Framingham State College Presents... Red Hot Fiesta!!! 10pm-2am College ID a must! $3 w/red; $5 w/o For directions or info: http://www.framingham.edu/directions.html

Retraction: "LASO Goes into the Community," article printed in error.

Vote, from page 3

nationwide, mentioning that only "30% of 18-24 year-olds vote." He said that this is a cultural phenomenon and that more minorities and young people are needed in the voting rink.

According to Ali, in all actuality, the Democratic and Republican parties are not so much interested in getting the 50% of Americans who do not vote to turn a new leaf and go to the voting booths. He said that this would only bring about more diversity in the demands presented to the two major parties, and would in turn get more people to voice independent needs and concerns (those to which the two major parties do not tend). Thus, he urged more people to vote Independent. The more Blacks as well as other minority communities join the Independent party, the more likely it becomes for specific needs to be met.

As far as voting rights becoming annulled in 2007, I took it upon myself to ask Ali about this issue. He responded that the Constitution guarantees the right to vote for all citizens. He said that the decision to be made in 2007 is simply an act of verification and validation. Simply put, the Black community's 15th amendment right cannot be taken away. His reasoning for the recent hype was that when Al Gore lost the 2000 presidential election, many panicked and eared that since "their man" was not voted into office, their rights were in jeopardy.

Ali assures that there is no need for concern in the year 2007. However, there is much need for concern when it comes to Blacks refusing to exercise the right for which so many fought to gain the right to vote. This right is all too often taken for granted, and the same people who do not exercise the rights are often fed up with America's political system. All of America's people need to realize that there are alternatives to the two parties. As one individual looks at this free nation, the limitation of two choices alone is not visible. Alternative choices are of avail to the people, and the Independent Party is working to demonstrate just this. The 50% of eligible Americans who do not vote can change unwanted policies simply by taking that periodic visit to the booths. For more information about the Community for a Unified Independent Party (CUIP), log in at http://www.cuip.org.

Afrihope International, Inc., non-profit organization seeks refurbished computers for technology education and medical equipment for schools hospitals in developing African countries.

Monetary donations will be accepted to ship the equipment. All donations are tax exempt and equipment will be picked up.

Send donations to:

Afrihope International, Inc.
P.o. box 190796
Boston, Ma 02119

For more information, please contact Afrihope at 617-957-1613.
E-mail: afrihope@aol.com. Website: www.afrihopeinc.org

ONYX Business

Firm's New Service Aims to Narrow Minority Americans' "Opportunity Information Gap"

A Maryland-based minority-owned firm has initiated a free internet-based service for minority Americans that aims to narrow the "opportunity information gap" many minorities experience when seeking jobs, internships, scholarships, and other career and educational opportunities.

DiversiTia, Inc.'s "Opportunity Update Internet-Letters" deliver to subscribers' e-mail inboxes current information about opportunities in ten fields ranging from foreign affairs careers with the federal government to study abroad and fellowship opportunities offered by universities, foundations and others.

DiversiTia obtains information about such opportunities from its clients: governmental, business, academic and non-governmental institutions. A typical client institution, says President and Chief Operating Officer George H. Mitchell, Jr., is one that worked hard in the past to increase diversity but was disappointed with the results.

Mitchell says that for his part he was not just disappointed but astounded to learn in 1999 that, some thirty-five years after initiating equal employment and affirmative action programs, many institutions were reporting little progress, and sometimes even slippage, in diversity.

"In this country we had seen three approaches used in pursuit of diversity: government-led, market-led, and various combinations of the two. We had also seen them fail. Clearly, a new approach was needed."

Mitchell saw a solution in innovative private sector firms—energized by private enterprise principles and intimately acquainted with both sides—that would stand between minority opportunity-seekers and the institutions to which they aspire, and make as many matches as possible.

"Greater knowledge of, closer communication with, and more interaction between people and institutions seeking each other are necessary to narrow the opportunity information gap," says Mitchell. All three can be greatly facilitated by an intermediary who has 'the big picture'—who knows how many qualified people there are, and where; and how many sincere institutions there are, and how to help them. That's why, in 2001, we established DiversiTia—to help institutions and individuals find and communicate with each other."

Mitchell hopes interested minority Americans will subscribe to one or more of DiversiTia's free internet newsletters, and interested institutional officials will seek more information, at www.diversitia.com

(Collegiate Presswire)

S.U.M.: Start Up Money

How to gain and maintain wealth & start up your own business

by C. Browne, otherwise know as SDC

- Love and have faith in yourself.
- Realize that people may not want you to do it because they want to do it first, yet if given the opportunity they would never do it.
- Work your plan.
- Who you are is whom you always will be, so acknowledge your flaws and improve your strengths.
- There are three types of people: People who are good for nothing, good for the sake of themselves (a.k.a. good for nothing), and people who are good for the sake of a higher power. Which one are you?
- What you give is always what you get, so watch what you do.
- Following your goals can drive you insane, so learn to relax and have fun.
- Study your trade, because practice really does make perfect.
- Replace your fear with faith and you'll stop decaying.
- If what you're doing is not positive or righteous, then what's the point?

Poll Says: Finding a Job After Graduation is Primary Concern for 79 Percent of College Students

With the tightening job market for graduating seniors, college students are facing a more difficult labor market than in years past. According to the most recent MonsterTRAK poll from Monsterheadquartered in Maynard, Mass, 79 percent of the respondents said finding a job after graduation is their primary concern right now. These results confirm a growing sentiment of concern among students about their prospects for employment. MonsterTRAK is a product of Monster(R), the leading global online careers site and flagship brand of TMP Worldwide Inc. (NASDAQ: TMPW).

In an online poll conducted March 18th-25th, MonsterTRAK asked, "Which is your primary concern right now?" A total of 1701 votes were cast, revealing:

- 79% (1339 votes) said: "Finding a job after graduation."
- 19% (319 votes) said: "Completing coursework and graduating on time."
- 2% (43 votes) said: "Finding a place to live after graduation."

'With the tightening job market, college students are becoming increasingly worried about finding post-graduation employment, according to this recent poll," said Ken Ramberg, senior vice president of MonsterTRAK. "However, the market has been a boom to small and mid-sized employers who, for the first time in many years, are able to attract some of the best and brightest college talent."

With the tougher job market and the increasing concern, many students are immersed in their job search process to get a step up on their peers. An important component of that search for college students across the country is MonsterTRAK, the definitive career resource for college students and alumni, which today announced that it has surpassed over one million college students that have registered on the website as part of their career management strategy. The college-focused offering also earned top honors as the most visited student-related website, according to market research firm Student Monitor(R).

According to the Student Monitor study, 18 percent of the nation's college students visited MonsterTRAK during the Fall 2001 semester, more than any other college student-related website. Based on the national survey of 1,200 four-year, full-time undergraduate students, Student Monitor also reported that MonsterTRAK was the only career site ranked among the top 15 most visited college-student related websites.

"Given the current economy, it is no surprise why MonsterTRAK is a popular destination among college students," said Eric Weil, Student Monitor`s managing partner. "As a result of the tight job market, students are concerned more than ever about finding internships or full-time jobs after graduation. They know they must be proactive to find the best career opportunities."

Extending its offerings to the college market, MonsterTRAK also announced recruiting partnerships with the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO), Beta Theta Pi, and Alpha Kappa Psi fraternities. The co-branded sites enable alumni to exclusively post career opportunities and search resumes within these organizations. Fraternity members can also post resumes to the fraternity-specific and MonsterTRAK national resume databases and search targeted job opportunities.

Since its inception in 1988, more than 500,000 employers have utilized MonsterTRAK to post full-time, part-time and internship opportunities. MonsterTRAK partners with over 1,350 college and university career centers, MBA programs, alumni associations and student groups, providing more entry-level jobs than any other career management entity — on- or offline. (collegiate presswire)

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   Then press Go.
3. Read the competition summary etc. and click on Join button.
4. Follow directions

For more information on the competition, e-mail Joseph Banda:
joe_rahim@hotmail.com

ONYX Health

The Proper Educate of Casual Sex

Amy Morgan

Sex is one of the most sought out and talked about topics in today's society. Sex itself is a billion dollar industry and not only consumes people's money, but their thoughts and their time.

Over the past few decades more and more people, both young and old, of all different races, ethnicities, economic statuses and backgrounds, have been engaging in sexual activity with multiple partners, people they may not necessarily have deep feelings for, know extremely well or plan to have a committed relationship with. And although many feel as though casual sex should not exist and that sex is the most intimate and tender physical expression of emotional and spiritual love, the fact still remains that sex has in fact become casual for many.

What exactly is casual sex? The definition differs for many, but in general casual sex is any type of sexual activity that is had between two people that are neither in, nor have intention to be in a committed relationship. Casual sex can be a one-night stand that occurs between people that may have never met or will see again. Casual sex can be sex between two people that will repeatedly engage in sexual activity with no ties. Casual sex can even occur between two friends, who have no intention of being in a committed relationship.

Often, stories are told amongst friends that reveal the horror stories, the improper treatment and dangerous situations encompassing casual sex encounters. The fact of the matter is that casual sex is casual, but at the same time is dealing with human beings and their emotions. Thus, here are ten guidelines that will help an individual engaging in casual sex avoid headache and heartache.

Guideline 1: Protection should always be used!!!

Guideline 2: Both individuals need to practice kindness, politeness and common sense. As one example that encompasses the above mentioned "must haves", if you bring someone home from the club, be kind, do not kick that person out at 4:00 in the morning; be polite, offer the bed or the couch to the person, don't assume they want to go home or sleep in the same bed; and use common sense, don't expect to stay over that person's house and always bring the number to a cab company and enough money to get yourself home.

Guideline 3: Contraceptives should ALWAYS be used. As the amount of casual sex increases so does the amount of sexually transmitted diseases. Contraceptives help to reduce the amount of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, yet these methods are not foolproof and be advised that accidents do happen...but don't forget protection.

Guideline 4: If sex occurs multiple times with the same person,

Sex, page 9

Colds, not only in the Cold

Amy Morgan

Sneezing, runny nose, sore scratchy throat, increased pressure in the sinuses...these are all symptoms to the common cold. The common cold may last up to two weeks and is the leading cause of doctor's visits and absenteeism from work and school. Not only is the common cold an annoyance to many, but is also a large economic burden as well. In 1996, The National Center for Health Statistics estimated that 62 million cases of the common cold caused 45 million days of restricted activity and 22 million days lost to absents from work and schools. What causes the common cold? When and why does the common cold occur? How do colds spread and what can be done to prevent them?

There is a big misconception that colds are produced by cold weather, or by walking outside with wet hair or by sitting near a draft for too long. In actuality, colds are not produced by the cold weather. In the United States many colds are transmitted in the fall and winter months. Scientists believe that this phenomenon is due to the opening of schools, where more children are in closed in areas, and cold weather causing people to be inside, allowing the cold to spread easier. In addition, cold weather tends to make the bodies mucus membranes raw, causing them to be more susceptible to the germs. Lastly, viruses tend to survive better, when there is low humidity, which usually occurs during

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Sex, from page 8

communication is a must. A conversation should take place that is upfront and frank about the relationship, what the expectations are of each person and what the sexual encounter means to each individual. Although this may seem like a lot of work for a relationship that is casual, there will be fewer headaches and heartaches in the long run. In addition, always leave the door open for future conversations and clarifications as people's feelings may change.

Guideline 5: Protection!

Guideline 6: During the entire sexual encounter, the foreplay, the actual sex and the aftermath, conversation topics should be restricted. General topics regarding future plans, marriage, the ideal man or woman and children should never be brought up. People may get the wrong idea and think that although this is just casual it may lead to something serious and long term. Which leads us to another guideline don't use casual sex as a way to build a relationship, it hardly ever works.

Guideline 7: Don't forget about the protection!!

Guideline 8: Although this may sound terrible to some...there should be no extensive periods of cuddling. Cuddling, to many, is a sign of deeper affection, and to many, brings about a feeling of attachment and longing for a relationship.

Guideline 9: Protection!

Guideline 10: Lastly, if feelings start to become mixed or expectations change, the casual sex relationship should be stopped immediately. For example, if one of the individuals involved starts talking about or requiring more from the relationship while that is not what the other wants, it's time to move on.

In the end, everybody is different. Individuals have different outlooks on casual sex, what it should and should not involve. If you make the personal choice to be in a "casual sex" relationship, please treat people as you yourself would like to be treated, use common sense and always use protection.

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ONYX Edutainment

Black Actors in 2002, Off to a Strong Start

by Zia Bartley

Listen up Black people! It is time to salute the Queen. Not the Queen of England but the Queen of the 2002 Oscars, Ms. Halle Berry. As a people, we should be ecstatic at the fact that she made history by becoming the FIRST African-American to win an Oscar for best actress for her role in *Monsters Ball*. If you were not a believer in miracles before that night, then you should definitely be one now. Halle Berry has broken the barrier of entry to one of the most prestigious awards in our society.

As soon as all of the millions of viewers heard the nominees for best actress in 2002, there was a mixture of personal choices in viewers' minds. But all of those various choices were eliminated as soon as they called Halle's name. For a few moments she looked terribly alone. But just as we always do, meaning black women, she rose to the occasion. Giving an emotional, and riveting acceptance speech, Halle spoke to the hearts of all people. She received that reward in the honor of every woman of color had been denied a chance in the world, of entertainment, business and in society. So many wonderful black actresses were overlooked for such an honor such as, Dorothy Dandridge, Lena Horne, Diahann Carroll and many others.

Now that this door is open to us, it is n ecessary for all those who have dreams to not be discouraged, because anything is possible, as seen with this monumental achievement. Also to add to the excitement Denzel Washington received the award for best actor for his compelling performance in *Training Day*.

LEGACY 2000

Now accepting applications for the Fall of 2002!

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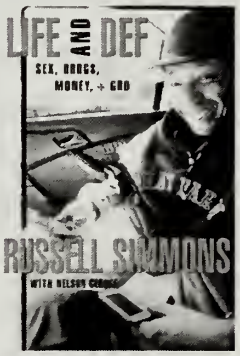
BOOK REVIEW

Life and Def: Sex, Drugs, Money, + God

by Russell Simmons with Nelson George

Yeah, I read and what! You know writing this book review reminded me of when I was in Grammer school and we would have book reports due every week. Remember those? Book reports were one of those homework's that I disliked doing but it had to be done. It was difficult to think of a whole page worth of good things to say about a boring book. Anyway, I'm grown now and I can say what ever I would like to about a book.



Fabolous, gangsta, dope, butterz! What can I say! It was a decent read. The book caters a lot towards the individuals who are interested in the music and entertainment industry (which includes myself). Granted, Russell could've shelled out more details of his life. Yet, the motivational aspect within the story made it less "soap-operatic". In the end, Russell sums up his life with some valuable and inspirational lessons learned. If you would like to know what they are then pick the book up and READ!

Holla at cha girl,
Candice J. Shaw

Dear Ms. Nubian,

I am a 21-year-old woman attending one of the universities here in Boston. I live off campus in an apartment with my ex-fiancee of 3 months. At this point in time our relationship is pretty much over and sour at that. We fight and argue all the time, but it is hard for me to move on, because I still love him, and it is even harder because we still live with one another. We sleep in different rooms, but that doesn't stop us from having sex when we get ready. Even though I know it is over between us, I tend to get side tracked during those "happy" moments, thinking that, maybe there is a chance for us.

We tried to be mature about the situation and said that it was alright to talk to other people. It seems as though he jumped at the opportunity quicker than I thought possible and now he has females calling the house at all types of times and stopping by like I don't live here and it is getting on my nerves, because it is disrespectful. I spoke to him about it and told him that I don't like it and that I'm not going to have that. But every time we get into that, he makes sure to bring me a copy of the lease with his name on it. I then began letting some of the girls that call and come over know what the deal is and how I feel. Some respected me, but you know a lot of them were real nasty and became spiteful as if I was talking crazy.

Signed,
Dramaful "My house is not a home nor a happy place for me"

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Dear Dramaful,

You are right on track when you said your ex-fiancé has control over your life right now, as he has presently controls you in more ways than one. In the mental state he has control over what you say and do because you live in an apartment that is in his name and you fear the possibility of getting kicked out if you tell him anything that he disagrees with. It is as if you are walking on eggshells as you begin to voice how you feel, causing you to second guess everything that you do. In the emotional sense he has control over your self-respect because you are so desperate to reunite with him that you continue to have sex with him while he is obviously seeing other people. The unfortunate truth of all this is that you are enduring a tremendous amount agony and pain. The fortunate possibility is that you have the ability, to change all of this if you are willing.

You must come to terms with the fact that he has moved on. You must also accept the fact that he is not necessarily being disrespectful by bringing other females to the house and having them call him there, especially since you both verbally agreed that you will see other people. I definitely understand on why you might feel disrespected but it doesn't necessarily mean that it is his intentions. What this does mean is that you have a strong desire to be together again with him, while he does not. It is clear that he is not interesting in being with you, which means you will have to start the process of letting him go.

First you will have to move out. Ask a friend or family member if you can possibly stay with them until you are able to find something better. I know that some campuses offer emergency housing to students in need. You might want to look into that as another alternative. If all else fails, while you continue to live there for the time being, it is imperative to establish a code of conduct that you will live by and stick to. One would be to eliminate any type of sexual intercourse that you have. The next and probably most important thing you would have to proceed with, is letting go of him in your heart. Once again this would mean you would have to maintain a relationship that does not include any type of physical contact but more importantly, this would help you focus more on what should be most important to you, and that is you. Put the focus back on you and hopefully you will able to make your house, a happy home. Extract the pain from your heart that you are inflicting on it.

Sincerely,
Ms Nubian

Soul Speech

How Crack Affected My Life

Crack Rock
That nigga is no joke
Practically ran part of my life
Affected my life
Took away family & friends from my life
Lets see
I lost many childhood friends to that nigga
Lost a Aunt & Uncle and a cousin
My father was gone for a while
I practically grew up in a NA meeting
But the streets was different
We were so young
Only 13 when we had to start dealing that death
From the playground to the block
Selling murder, genocide, and destruction
Seeing ya boys best friend moms coming through
Brothers Aunts & Uncles coming through
Pregnant mothers coming through
Vietnam Vets spending their disability checks
That nigga ran my community
It was normal
But we never got anywhere
We never had no fast cars
No chains no jewelry
That nigga killed us all
We still aint recovered
Childhood friends dead or gone
My family cut in half
That's how it was and still is
That Nigga, Crack Rock

Dance

By Octavia Ramsey

my veins
pulse
your body
twists
around my thighs
your soul
unwinds
against my hips

we breathed a beat

The world is turning
So keep it burning
Love is at hold
From the mold of cold
Thoughts
Grow this alibi
With this new guy
Platonic or romantic
Love won't shy
So go buy
That device
For inner nice....ness
Oh yeahhh
Ice up that
Red, gold & green
It represents you and me
Not together but,
Brother and sister

~udja

Damn, I'm talking to you, Black.

Our problems run deep like huge tree roots
The government will never give us free loot
These days we are loosing our traditions
The time-honored ones and those additions
These days, a village can't raise a child
Most children are on the streets buck wild
The cops don't care; they choose to shoot
My people ain't scared; they lose too soon
Maybe we are pawns in a mighty game of chess
Why do we spend money on dope, weed or sess?
Everyday I cross the street hoping to get hit
Newspaper in hand did Jesse Jackson do it?
We share the same ancestors; blood is Royalty
We need to be good mentors, show some loyalty
Find God and start meditating
Don't ignore me; stop deteriorating
Love me; we are all estranged, people
Damn, black, I want my manhood back

A lonely girl

By Expressive WordzBy

A lonely girl
Laying in a corner
Balled up
With her knees to her chest
Crying
Sobbing
Screaming aloud
She lifts her head
But quickly turns away
I ask her what is wrong
She answers in a familiar voice
Voice sounds too familiar
I twist around to see her face
Her eyes meet mine
I am looking at myself

Never

By Don't Fall In Love

Never say I love you
If you don't really care
Never talk about feelings
If they aren't really there
Never hold my hand
If you are going to break my heart
Never say you are going to
If you don't plan to start
Never look into my eyes
If all you do is lie
Never say hello
If you really mean goodbye
If you really mean forever
Then say you will try
Never say forever
Cause forever makes me cry

Infiltration

The infiltration
Caused by mere penetration
Led to a desecration
Of my soul
And me as a whole
And I began to fold, give into pleasure
No longer seen as a treasure
Just a conquered endeavor
To be opened up and used
Closed and then reused
Too confused from being misused
Completely consumed from being abused

I was born on the 7th day in May
On this day my heart
And every part
Of my mind, body, and soul
Lay on a grassy knoll
Waiting to be picked up by a passerby
And there I lie
No tears to cry
As men walk pass
And speed up and walk fast
And litter on me with trash
And try to seduce me with cash
But there I lie
Trodden and laden
As my hope was fading
He walked by
This led to
The infiltration

First he grabbed my body
Checked to make sure it wasn't shoddy
Nor sloppy and trashy
But stylish and classy
He used my body for his physical gains
By thrusting me with pain
As I went insane
His kiss again made me sane
Then there was more pain
Following by another kiss
And I began to forget what he had missed
Sensing my aversion
He decided to use coercion
And I allowed him to take what was rightfully his
My body

After toying with me physically
He moved on to mentally
Spiritually then emotionally
And my heart was his for the taking
And these feelings he was faking
As he spoke words out of obligation
Filled my head with contemplation
About
What could be
And what he said will be
And what I want it to be
But along the way I forgot what to see
And I forgot how to be me
As he blinded me with goggles of love
And seemed like he was sent from above
I got lost in the idea of being in love
And I thought I was in love
And I told him that I was in love
And he told me that he was in love
But instead of embracing
He was turning
No longer facing
His obligation to me
That contemplation of what he
Had said to me
Could no longer be
Because
There was an infiltration
And I am left
Lying on the grass knoll
With no heart nor soul
And no love to make me whole

Evil Plots: The captors mind

First, let us gather and scatter, YES
Then, let us confuse and use, YES
Then, let us add and subtract, YES
Then, let us divide and conquer, YES
Then, let us rape and exploit, YES
Then, let us kill and murder, YES
Then, let us rule and ridicule, YES
Then, let us slash and whip, YES
Then, let us hate and annihilate, YES
Then, let us explain ...NO, enchain, YES
Then, let us love ...NO, enslave, YES

The Truth Table

Myths told	Facts by Stats	Beliefs
Black people are not racists, they just don't like white people in control of their lives	Ironically racism doesn't discnminate when it attaches itself to the psyche of any individual. Black people are people, and any person has the o be racist.	Even though some black people are racist, what does it mean, they're not in control
If more people were educated, there would be less people in prisons, saying that school and prisons areseparate institutions.	Universities and Prisons are different toilets for the same $hit. Funded massively by proposals "needed" to uphold the myths told.	Inmates are notrehabilitating, collegestudents are not getting anysmarter, but money is stillgoing into both. It's all aboutthe Benjamins and NU sho' is lookin prettier everyday
Tupac Shakur wasn't assassinated, he was murdered	Either way Pac was great and still lives through his work on and off the "record".	How many people do you know can appeal to the spectrum of the masses through the same words in the same demeanor, tell and convince you of how fed up this world is and in the same breath make you feel good about living in it
Things have gotten significantly better for minonties with equal opportunities	Minorities do have more options in what they can be, but society of the whole even in the villages that raise us, tell us to be all we can be, but only in what is needed	Doctors, lawyers, politicians and engineers seem to be the only careers we are encouraged to pursue. We are not at a liberty to be all we can be, never the least, all we want to be

Mass Media: Black America & Propaganda

Judah Molina

Mass Media has helped shape the minds of Black America throughout history by using various propaganda techniques. Propaganda is opinion expressed for the sole purpose of influencing the actions of individuals or groups, whether it be for good or for bad. The persuasive techniques are regularly applied by television, textbooks, movies and many who become interested in impacting human behavior. With the aid of all the other propaganda devices, which include persuasion, bribery, manipulation, symbols, and the exploitation of human emotions, all of these artifices of flattery are used to harness the fears and hatreds, prejudices and biases, convictions and ideals common to a group.

Through life experience, and my always analytical thinking, I have developed my own views of society through school, television, music, newspapers, magazines, traveling, as well as the way I was raised by my family and by my community.

The mediums used to inform or teach, such as schoolbooks, news, television shows etc. have been half-truthed or lacking authentic information. We are taught that African Slaves were bought from Africa to go to America and other places to do labor work. The American education did not teach that these same African were kidnapped and forced to leave their homes and then shackled and packed uncomfortably on ships where some died of sickness and malnutrition. These Black Slaves were treated inhumanly and that was something I learned outside of school. I guess that wasn't important enough to put in the American schoolbooks. The scientific fact that Black people are the earth's first human beings and that Africa is the birthplace of all civilization has not been taught in American education either. Prominent black figures have been excluded from American history. Marcus Garvey was a Black activist who started the Back to Africa Movement in the 1920's, I learned that from sources outside of school, as well. There were many Black inventors that invented things we use everyday. Just to name a few, Garrett Morgan invented the stop light, Henry Samsom invented the cellular phone; Granville T. Woods invented the telephone system; Alexander Miles, the elevator; W.A. Deitz, the shoe; Joseph Dickinson the record player. There are many Black inventors of many important things in life that we use everyday but they are not acknowledged in the American education. Blacks are not even taught in America's schools that, there own people have contributed to so many great things in the world. Maybe if more African-Americans knew of such Black contributions, they could realize and understand the importance of their culture. Maybe if they knew these things, there would be a higher confidence level knowing that Black people can have a higher role in society, or a role as high as anybody.

These schemes have carried on in the lifestyles of Blacks until this time, because most people don't even know they are being led to live and think the way the propagandist wants them to; according to Aaron Delwiche at the University of Washington who published an article about propaganda March 12, 1995 on the internet. The manner in which the Blacks think has been formed from 'god knows when' and cannot be changed unless Black people use their own propaganda to reverse the mind frame of the world towards them. Mass Technology of media can help this process

Televisions depiction of the American life

Television, for instance, is one of the most influential mediums. The 40's show "Shirley Temple" was to be the image of an adorable, cute, talented and loveable little white girl that led little Black girls to wanting to be just like her because she was popularized by television as the perfect image of the American girl. Nobody is perfect. A couple of other shows that were "popular", just to name a few, were "Leave it to Beaver", "Lassie", "Father Knows Best" and "Ozzie and Harriet" all portrayed the "perfect" American family and its function. These were all white families. The only Black show was a show called Amos n Andy. This was a very popular show but the characters were two Black people played by two white men that would display racism in the show. The twisted language that they spoke was supposed to be the way Black people spoke English. Though it was a comedy, Black people would watch this and this image portrayed would be what they understood to be the way American TV viewed the culture of Black people.

Logical speculation leads me to find that this had an impact on the way Black folks thought, that they were illiterate and uneducated and that the white families were better than they were. Shows such as these being viewed by Black people could and did

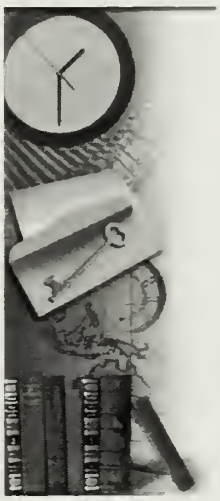
make Blacks compare themselves to these families. Black families were far from these American lifestyles and some Blacks could do nothing but resent their own living conditions to the point where low confidence and low self-respect was a factor. This did not affect all Black people because it urged some to defend themselves by protesting. Commercials alone, which depicted all kinds of popular toys, foods, clothing, etc., things that Black folks could not even afford but desired, took a toll because there was a lot of wanting and not getting.

As for school, the books selected for academic purposes, history, social studies, American literature, include no history of Black people when in fact they are scientifically the first people to roam the earth. It was also black people that sewed the crops and preserved the land, which put food and clothing on the market. The American school education denied black people of knowing their own history. In the classroom, students learned about "glorious" Christopher Columbus who was such a "great" discoverer, but they didn't learn that he and his people were rapists, killers, and thieves, and brought all kinds of corruption to America. In those American-based history and social studies books blacks were led to believe that a white man, Abraham Lincoln, was on their side when fighting the civil war to "abolish slavery" when in fact the war was fought only for economic reasons which made the abolishment of slavery only incidental according to John O. Killens, author of Black Man's Burden. Blacks were taught that George Washington was fighting for freedom in the Revolutionary War but in fact he was fighting for rich white people, because after the war the only people that could vote were those same rich white folks. The war didn't even have anything to do with freedom, justice, or equality. It was about rich white people who didn't want to pay taxes to the king.

Convincing slaves that the wars were fought to free them and give them equal rights and justice was just a way of leading Black slaves to think that they were becoming more important social wise. Blacks were convinced that they were fighting for themselves.

When I was in school, the only Black film that I saw was the repeated Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a Dream" film which as I can remember mostly focused on the Black people being beaten by police for fighting for "equal rights and justice" that they have been denied of by the white government. The texts books that we read in elementary and middle school classes were all of American and European history and I knew that the Black history part was missing because I was enrolled in a Saturday program that was devoted to teaching its students about Black history and Africa. The things I learned in this program I wasn't learning in public school but at no time did I think I was being deprived because I was too young to realize it. I just thought that was the history we had to know. It wasn't until high school when I really started to think about why Black culture wasn't a part of the public school curriculum. In music classes we didn't learn about Black music like, hip-hop, blues, or jazz. Instead we learned about symphony, opera, and classical music. I guess this was what people Black or White had to know to function in this society. The only time we learned about Black people was during Black history month. I guess that month was our compensation for four hundred years of slavery.

I got tired of learning what they wanted to teach me; it wasn't enough for me. I wanted to learn more about Black people and the trials, tribulations and triumphs. I started to become more inquisitive because I knew there was a lot more to learn besides the subjects in school. I became eager to know about my surroundings and what led up to my cultural position in life-meaning, why am I a Black middle class citizen living in a society of violence, racism, and un-equality.



All the Hardships, racism, hatred, slavery, segregation, and degradation the Black population have been brought up in has effected us, most Blacks and Hispanics are regarded as middle to low class citizens because we have allowed society to place us there. Being in this position is allowing other cultures to place themselves in a higher position than us and have more control of the way the society is run. We should all work together. Unity is strength.

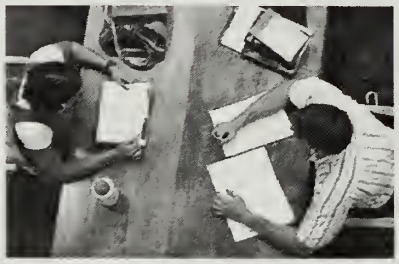
To conclude, I can say that propaganda effects have made a profound impression in the minds of black Americans. A lot of us have not been able to recognize that we have been swayed and discombobulated by the world in which we have been compelled to exist in.

ONYX Speak Out

School Work vs. Social Life

Aight, now we've all made it to college. We're here now. High school was for some of us nerve racking, while others played it cool. You either came straight home after participating in extra-curricular activates and then did all ya homework, or you chilled, maybe did sports or worked part-time. You can often tell the difference between the type that worked hard, or the type that always chose to procrastinate. But whatever your case was, you're in college now. And now its time to have fun. Especially if you live on campus, or away from the folks. There are no bad consequences lie detention or suspension if you cut class. It's all up to you. And it should be, seeing as though you're probably payin for this multi-thousand education. Your independant in your own way, and now the decisions are up to you to succeed. When you were in high school, part of your failures (if any) could be blamed on the parents. But college is the real world. Of course your ambitions are to be rich and maybe famous, but try maintainin a high GPA and havin a good social life. It's hard. Very hard!

Lets take a closer look at the life of schoolwork. Sure it's a pain to have to read about 500 pages of textbook material between all your classes in one week. And of course you'd rather not type that 10 page mid-term paper, topping it off with maybe a 15-page paper due at the end of the quarter. But you have to remind yourself that it will pay-off in the future. That's your only driving force behind hard work. Well, that, and the satisfaction of knowing you can call yourself intelligent. Aside from that, your social life isn't that great. Can you remember the last time you went to a party 3 times out of the week, and managed good grades? Well, it's not to say that it's impossible or anything. I mean, I think I could pull of a steady GPA of a 2.5, which ain't great, but decent while having an interesting nightlife.



How about that social life? There's supposed to be somthin good goin down on Lansdowne on Thursday night, but just your luck all your boys have no classes, and you're stuck with an 8:00 class on Friday morning. Tough break kid! But you go anyways, havin the time of your life, livin it up. Get back to your room around 3:00. Then that's when you realize you didn't even read since you know you might just have one of those "pop quizzes" the professor gives 4 times a week. What are your chances of dodging it? SLIM! So you do a lil studying, and finally, getting some sleep by 4. You wake up, look to the side at your alarm clock, and its 9:15. 'What the hell!' You seem to have forgot you hit the off button instead of the snooze. *Oops, oh my.* But hey, at least you had a got nice, did some buggin out, and walked away with a couple of numbers. If you were real lucky, then maybe a one night stand. Hey, it doesn't happen only in the movies. In any event, the social life is good, but

Work v. Life, page 17

Hater (ha-ter) n. 1. One who expresses extreme dislike for an issue pertaining to anything in the inhabited world. 2. Term used in opposition of negative criticism. Ex. "You think I'm ugly? Stop being a hater." Etymology: Ebonics, originally Player Hater, and then shortened

The hater is back again like Jordan, but I ain't injured like his old ass. As long as I stay clear of doing the Harlem shake I should be in good shape. I swear that has got to be the most dangerous dance ever created. What epileptic was cool enough to get cats to actually think that having a seizure was the hotness? Y'all better be careful before you pull something. Hopefully someone invents the Brooklyn Coma so these cats just sit down and chill. Go get a drink at the bar or something.

Harlem is going crazy. First Starbucks, then 106 and park, now this. So, when are the producers at 106 and Park, gonna wake up and fire A.J. cuz Free look too damn good to be next to this stuttering weirdo. Besides, Busta Rhymes has officially over-powered this clown as the most undecided hairstyle. Fade-Cornrow-Locks. C'mon Busta, one at a time please. It's all downhill for 106 and Park now. I guess that's why they had Roy Jones on there talking about his

Hater, page 17

Work v. Life, from page 16

new single.

OK, Roy Jones. Just cuz you look like method man don't mean you can rhyme. Sorry buddy. Nobody really cares what you have to say. You fight for a living. Just beat somebody's ass and keep your mouth shut. I really hope this doesn't mean that boxers are gonna start dropping albums cuz the next one would probably be Mike Tyson. I think I'll just have to cry at that point.

Then you have the singer who wants to be a boxer. But I guess he decided he's gonna beat up little girls instead. R. Kelly. OK, just tell me why? I'm sure these girls' parents wouldn't mind letting you hit it, and they're probably younger than you too. When he said 12 play, did you think he was being literal? I sure didn't. I wonder if that is admissible evidence. Who would think that the "World's Greatest" entertainer was a pedophile? I guess it shows what heroes are made of.

And if I hear anything about September 11th again, I'm gonna go crazy. I understand you ain't trying to hire me, but the excuses are getting old. Just tell me you think I'm gonna steal everything in your store when you aint looking. September 11th was too long ago. Your company ain't still suffering because of that. Let's talk about something else for a change. I'm saying since the United States is so perfect, let's look at some other countries, like Zimbabwe. I can't believe this country. The US is denouncing them for tampering with ballots, using diversionary tactics and violence in their elections. This is ridiculous. If that ever happened in the United States, I would.... NEVERMIND. Too late. By the way, there's no need to vote in the next 3 elections. Bush already won.

And when did the Oscars become a Black award show? I guess somebody upstairs decided that this would be the year to give out all the awards they could to Black people to shut them up for a long time. They even forced it by letting Whoopi Goldberg host the show. I thought she retired or something. That's the best they could do? I think I even saw little Afros on the awards. Black people got everything they ever need now. All that's left is for Denzel Washington to put his Oscar on a 40-inch chain and start rapping on Reebok commercials. So much for reparations.

So, if you need to get me hit me on the email, cuz I'll be in the crib with the lights low replaying the part in Monster's Ball when Halle Berry ain't keeping any secrets. Please don't disturb me. ONE.....

stopphatin2002@yahoo.com

What's on your mind?

Voice your opinions through the Onyx Informer & Speak Out!

Send writings to OnyxInformer@yahoo.com.

(Please limit to 600 words). Submissions must be typed and submitted by e-mail (or 2 hard copies). All submissions must contain a confirmation phone number and or e-mail address. Names can be withheld or pseudonyms used in upon request.

The Onyx Informer reserves the rights to edit, condense, or reject any submission that does not meet editorial publishing guidelines set by the editorial board.

Hater, from page 16

slowly and surely, your academics are slippin.

Well we can see that a college life and hard work just might pay-off in the end. I mean, when your goin for a nice drive in your new jag to your summer home in the Hamptons, you thank yourself for working so hard and havin an easy road to riches. Or you can have an average job, making a decent salary, but be able to look back at college as the greatest years of your life. Which do you choose? How about a happy medium? I mean, you can have a good social life, and achieve academically if you set yourself with the right attitude and will. Try looking back at college life as fun, and at the same time a good benefit. Its possible. Trust me. Its good to have fun while your young, cuz more than likely, when you're out of college, that's when the real world hits you. You are fully independent, well, unless you still plan to crash with the folks. But it is important to set yourself up with a plan that works. For example, I'll let you in on my secret, but fair warning, it doesn't work for everyone! I go to classes of course. Work, and concentrate on school work from Sunday thru Thursday. I make sure I get everything important out of the way. Cuz procrastination is like masturbation, and in the end your just.... yourself. Remember that! It's very helpful. Then leave Thursday thru Saturday completely open to partying. But try not to get too out of hand and get locked up for the weekend cuz you decided to act a fool on Friday night. Just let yourself loose towards the end. It seems like you got a Dr. Jeckyl/ Mr. Hyde personality in a way. But don't worry, people will not think you're crazy. I hope. And in the end, you can have a good future, while your college life will be something to share with the young'ns.

Colds, from page 8

the fall and winter seasons. Specifically the Rhinovirus can survive up to three hours without a host cell.

Over 200 viruses that have been identified by scientists cause the common cold. The Rinovirus is the culprit of 30 to 35% of adult colds. This particular virus is most active in the spring, summer and early fall. This virus grows best at 33 degrees Celsius (91F), which is typically the temperature of the human mucus membranes. Viruses are unique in their own way, due to the fact that a virus needs a host cell, such as a plant, animal or bacteria, in order to reproduce. Viruses on their own are inactive and only have the materials that make up their genetic code. They use the host cell to copy and reproduce their genetic material and to grow and attack more host cells. All viruses have proteins on the outside that help them recognize the proper host cell, in the case of the cold, the proteins recognize the mucus membrane cells as the proper host cell, attach and begin to divide. The virus can enter the body through the nose, mouth, eyes or breaks in the skin. Regardless of the host cells, all viruses follow the same basic steps in invading their host, known as the lytic cycle. The lytic cycle begins with the virus attaching to the host cell, the virus then releases the genetic material into the cell. The virus recruits materials in order to replicate the genetic material and make new virus particles. The new virus particles and the genetic material break out of the cell, usually killing the host and invading more cells. Many of the symptoms felt from the common cold is actually your immune system fighting the virus. The increase in body temperature is a way to decrease the growth of the virus. Meanwhile, your runny nose is due to the increase of the infection fighting cells in the nose that cause inflammation and an increase in mucus production.

The cold virus is transmitted by several mechanisms including touching infected bodily secretion and then touching the eyes or nose; inhaling large virus particles or exposure over long periods of time to infected respiratory secretion. Prevention of the common cold includes frequent hand washing, avoidance of touching the eyes and the nose and avoidance of infected individuals.

Due to the fact that viruses use healthy cells to reproduce, there are no medicines that have been created to kill only the virus and not the host cell. Thus, the only treatment for the common cold is plenty of rest and lots of water, these two activities will help your body fight the virus on it's own.

UNITY WEEK 2002
Calendar of Events

Sun, April 28th	**Unity Week Kickoff Brunch** 12pm-3pm AAI, Library
Mon, April 29th	**NASO Event** Activities pd. 11:45am, Location TBA
Tue, April 30th	**HSU Dance Performance** 7:30pm -10:30pm, Location TBA
Wed, May 1st	**NSBE & LASO present Dave Chapelle** Doors open 7:30pm, Blackman Auditorium
Thur, May 2nd	**UNITY DAY ON THE COMMON** Activities pd. 11:45am, Centennial Commons
Fri, May 3rd	**Legacy 2000 & BESS Unity BBQ** Time and Location TBA
Sat, May 4th	**Unity Street Fair/New England Step Fest** Time and Location TBA
Sun, May 5th	**29th Annual Unity Awards Banquet** 2:00pm Curry Student Center, West Addition

What would this world be like without the contributions of Black folks?

A story is told about a group of white people who were fed up with African Americans, so they joined together and wished themselves away. They passed through a deep dark tunnel and emerged in sort of a twilight zone where there was an America without black people. At first these white people breathe a sigh of relief. At last, they say, no more crime, drugs, violence and welfare. All of the blacks have gone!! Then suddenly, reality sets in. The "NEW AMERICA" is not America at all-only a barren land.

1. There are very few crops that have flourished because the nation was built on a slave-supported system.

2. There are no cities with tall skyscrapers because Alexander Mils, a black man, invented the elevator, and without it one finds great difficulty reaching high floors.

3. There are few if any cars because Richard Spikes, a black man, invented the automatic gear shift, Joseph Gammell, also black, invented the Super Charge System for Internal Combustion Engines, and Garrett A. Morgan invented the traffic signals.

4. Furthermore, one could not use the rapid transit system because its precursor was the electric trolley, which was invented by another black man, Elbert R. Robinson.

5. Even if there were streets on which cars and a rapid transit system could operate, they were cluttered with paper because an African American, Charles Brooks, invented the street sweeper.

6. There were few if any newspapers, magazines and books because John Love invented the pencil sharpener, William Purvis invented the fountain pen, Lee Burridge invented the Type Writing Machine and W. A. Lovette invented the Advanced Printing Press. They were all, you guessed it, black.

7. Even if Americans could write their letters, articles and books, they would not have been transported by mail because William Barry invented the Postmarking and Canceling Machine, William Purvis invented the Hand Stamp and Phillip Downing invented the Letter Drop.

8. The lawns are brown and wilted because Joseph Smith invented the Lawn Sprinkler and John Burr the Lawn Mower.

9. When they entered their homes, they found them to be poorly ventilated and poorly heated. You see, Frederick Jones invented the Air Conditioner and Alice Parker the Heating Furnace. Their homes were also dim. But of course, stupid, Lewis Latimer invented the Electric Lamp, Michael Harvey invented the Lantern and Granville T. Woods invented the Automatic Cut off Switch. Their homes were also filthy because Thomas W. Steward invented the Mop and Lloyd P. Ray, the Dust Pan.

10. Their children met them at the door-barefooted, shabby, motley and unkempt. But what could one expect? Jan E. Matzelinger invented the Shoe Lasting Machine, Walter Sammons invented the Comb, Sarah Boone invented the Ironing Board and George T. Samon invented the Clothes Dryer.

11. Finally, they were resigned to at least have dinner amidst all of this turmoil. But here again, the food is spoiled because another black man, John Standard invented the refrigerator.

Now, isn't that something? What would this world be like without the contributions of Black folks? Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "that by the time we leave for work we have been dependent on half the world modern America is created by dependencies on the inventions from the minds of Black folks."

Black history... our history... is what makes this country as powerful as it is.

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